bat Aircraft are detrimental to the development of scientific research in our country and the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bangalore; and

(b) what is Government's assessment regarding reliability of US, in the context of its attitude in supplying enriched uranium for Tarapur Atomic Power Station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir

(b) In the light of the Indo-US Memorandum of Understanding and assessment of all factors connected with export control administration by the Govt. of USA, there is reasonable confidence in the reliability of the USA in the concerned areas of high technology

Applications for telephone connections in Cuttack District

2270 SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications received for new telephone connections in the Cuttack District of Orissa, during the last two years and the number of those which have been given connections; and

(b) by when all the applicants are likely to be given telephone connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) During the two years ending 31-10-86, 2029 applications for new telephone connections were received in Cuttack District of Orissa and during this period 903 connections were given

(b) All the applicants on waiting list as on 31-10-86 are likely to be given telephone connections within the next three years.

Opening of Post Offices, Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges in Cuttack District

2271. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state what is the target for opening new post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in the Cuttack District of Orissa during 1985-86 and 1986-87 and the number of those which have already been opened upto 31st October, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): *Post offices*—On account of the continuing ban on creation of posts, no programme of opening of new post offices has been implemented during 1985-86 or, so far, during 1986-87 in Orissa Circle or in other Postal Circles. As on 31-10-1986, 7535 post offices were functioning in Orissa Circle out of which 6989 were in rural areas and 546 in urban areas

Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchange—During 1985-86 10 telegraph offices and 6 telephone exchanges were opened in Orissa a Circle The target for 1986-87 for telegraph offices is 10 and that for telephone exchanges is 3 Upto 31-10-86, 3 telegraph offices were opened.

2272 [*Transferred to the* 5th *December*, 1986]

Standing Committee of Voluntary Organisations for pensioners

2273 PROF C LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have appointed a Standing Committee of Voluntary Organisations of pensioners (SCOVA) to advise the Ministry of Pensions on various problems relating to pensioners and family pensioners in the country,

(b) if so, what are the names of members of the said committee indicating its terms of reference and what are the tenures and privileges of the members and the organisations they represent, and

(c) what are the criteria, eligibility and qualifications fixed by the Ministry for selection of members to Standing Committee of Voluntary Organisations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI). (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

Statement

CONSTITUTION

A Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies for the Department of Pension and Pensioner's welfare was constituted on July 31, 1986 with a view to promoting the following objectives

(i) To provide a feedback on programme implementation of the Department,

(ii) To discuss and critically examine new policy initiatives, and

(iii) To mobilise voluntary effort to supplement the Government action

COMPOSITION

2 The composition of the Committee is as under

1 Dr Bool Chand, President, Bharat Pensioners' Samaj, New Delhi

2 Shri Ripudaman Singh, Senior Vice President, Bharat Pensioners' Samaj, New Dehli

3 Shri S S Ramachandran, Secretary General, All India Central Council of Pensioners' Associations, New Delhi

4 Shri B. S Vaze, General Secretary, All India P&T and Other Central Government Pensioners' Association (Main Centre), Pune

5. Shri M S Hinge, General Secretary, All India Retired Railwaymen's Federation, Bhusaval

6 Brig Ram Singh (Retd) President, Indian Ex-Services League, New Delhi.

7 Col. B S. Panwar (Retd.) Senior Vice President, Indian Ex-Services League, New Delhi

8 Maj Gen Budh Singh (Retd) President Haryana Ex-Services League, Rohtak, Haryana

9 Air Comdre. M S Dandekar (Retd) President, Maharashtra State Ex-Services League, Bombay.

10 Brig P K Nandagopal (Retd), President, Tamil Nadu State Ex-Services League, Vellore, Tamil Nadu.

11 Brig B N Upadhyay (Retd), President, Bihar State Ex-Services League, Patna

The members of the Committee have been selected from the well-known and active organisations of the pensioners representing various interests like Railway pensioners, Ex-Servicemen, etc.

TENURE OF MEMBERS

3 The term of office of the members will be for a period of one year

OTHER MATTERS

4 The members are entitled to travelling allowance and daily allowance for attending the meetings of the Committee in accoradnce with the provisions of SR 190 and orders of the Government of India as issued from time to time

Construction of roof over railway platforms at Ordnance Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur

2274 SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that construction of roof to cover certain existing railway platforms at Ordnance Vehicle Factory at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh is behind schedule,

(b) what is the date of commencement of construction and the expected date of completion thereof, as according to the contract agreement of 1983-84;

(c) what are the reasons for slow progress, and